



NORTHWEST
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

GARDENnotes

WINTER 2024



Helleborus 'ABCRD02' ANNA'S RED™
Image by Richie Steffen



WEBINARS

2024 Webinar Prices:

Members: \$12.00
Non-members: \$20.00,
unless otherwise noted

Wednesday, March 6

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Renovating the Aging Garden
Bess Bronstein

Wednesday, March 27

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Great Plant Picks Scent-Sational Plants:
Adding Fragrance to the Garden
Richie Steffen

Wednesday, April 3

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Guide:
How to Combine Shape, Color, and
Texture to Create the Garden of Your
Dreams
Jenny Rose Carey

Wednesday, April 10

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Dishing Dirt with Bess & Richie
Bess Bronstein & Richie Steffen

Wednesday, April 24 (FREE for Members)

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Soil! – What it is & How it works...
James Cassidy

Wednesday, May 8

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Learning To Be Home
Shanon Nichol

Wednesday, May 15

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
The Beauty in Biodiversity:
Gardening with Pacific Northwest
Native Plants
Kristen Currin and An"Drew" Merritt -
Humble Roots

Wednesday, May 29

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Common Garden Dilemmas and What
to Do About Them
Bess Bronstein

Wednesday, June 5

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Designing Climate Adapted Gardens:
A Designer Forum
Naomi Goodman, Jonathan Hallet,
and Jason Jorgensen

Wednesday, June 19

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
The Great Garden Road Trip
Jason Morse

Saturday, June 29

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Succulent Love
Kathy Tracey

Wednesday, July 10

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Dishing Dirt with Bess & Richie
Bess Bronstein & Richie Steffen

Wednesday, July 17 (FREE for Members)

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Behind the Scenes at the Missouri
Botanical Garden: The Center
for Home Gardening
Daria McKelvey

Wednesday, July 24

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Garden Allies
Frederique Lavoipiere

Wednesday, August 14

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Using Native Plants in the Garden:
How to Grow Them, Obtain Them and
Design With Them
Linda Cochran

**Wednesday, August 21
(FREE for Members)**

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Gravel Gardens: Gardens
for our Changing Climate
Jeff Epping

Wednesday, September 11

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Designing with Grasses for Drought
Tolerance and Beauty
Susan Calhoun

Wednesday, September 18

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Planting Trees Like You Mean It:
Essential Practices for the First Five Years
Christina Pfeiffer

Wednesday, September 25

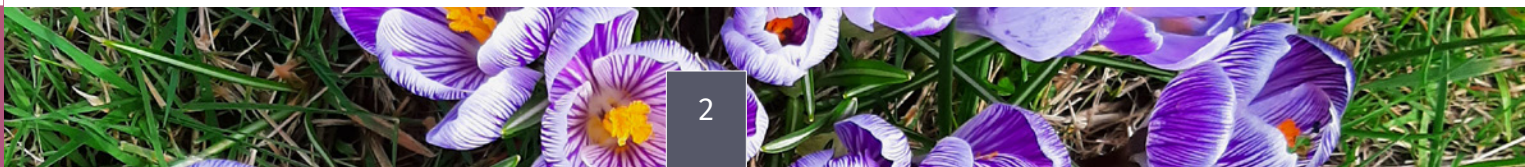
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Trial and Error: Propagation
of Seed and Spore
Del Brummet

Wednesday, October 2

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Maximalist Gardening: Harnessing our
Changing Ecology for a Better World
Dave Demers

Wednesday, October 9

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Dishing Dirt with Bess & Richie
Bess Bronstein & Richie Steffen



SPRING SYMPOSIUM

The Beauty of Sustainability in Public and Private Gardens

Saturday, March 16, 9 AM to 3:30 PM
Bastyr University, Kirkland, WA

Design, Biophilia, and Sustainability on the Expedia Campus

Michal Kapitulnik, ASLA, Principal and
James Lord, FASLA, founding partner or
Roderick Wylie, FASLA, founding partner of Surfacedesign

Building a Real Pollinator Garden

Claudia West, Principal, Planting Design Director
and co-founder of Phyto Studio

Enhancing Habitat, Resilience, and Beauty in the Garden

Planting Manzanitas and Companion Species

Fred Weisensee, co-founder and owner,
and Michelle Loughran of Dancing Oaks Nursery



2024 In-person Classes & Tours

Your NHS Board is committed to providing members a robust in-person program of classes & tours for 2024 and beyond. In order to accomplish this, we are looking for members who are interested in volunteering in many ways:

- Send us ideas for horticulture & gardening topics you are interested in.
- Are you willing to present a class – let us know what you would like to teach.
- Are you able to help with class hosting (not necessarily in your garden).
- Join our committee and help us develop the program.
- If you can help in any way, please send an email to info@northwesthort.org. Thanks so much!

Renee Montgelas & Gillian Mathews
Classes/Tours Committee co-chairs

IN-PERSON LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING

Jennifer Jewel

What We Sow in Cultivating Our Places

Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 PM,
Center for Urban Horticulture

FALL SYMPOSIUM

Trees and Their Changing Ecology

Saturday, October 12, 9:00 AM,
Bastyr University Auditorium

Douglas Justice, Associate Director,
Horticulture and Collections, UBC
Botanical Garden

Ethan Bryson, Natural Forests with
Marylee Smunitee Jones, Yakama Nation,
Healing Forest

Nancy Buley, J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.

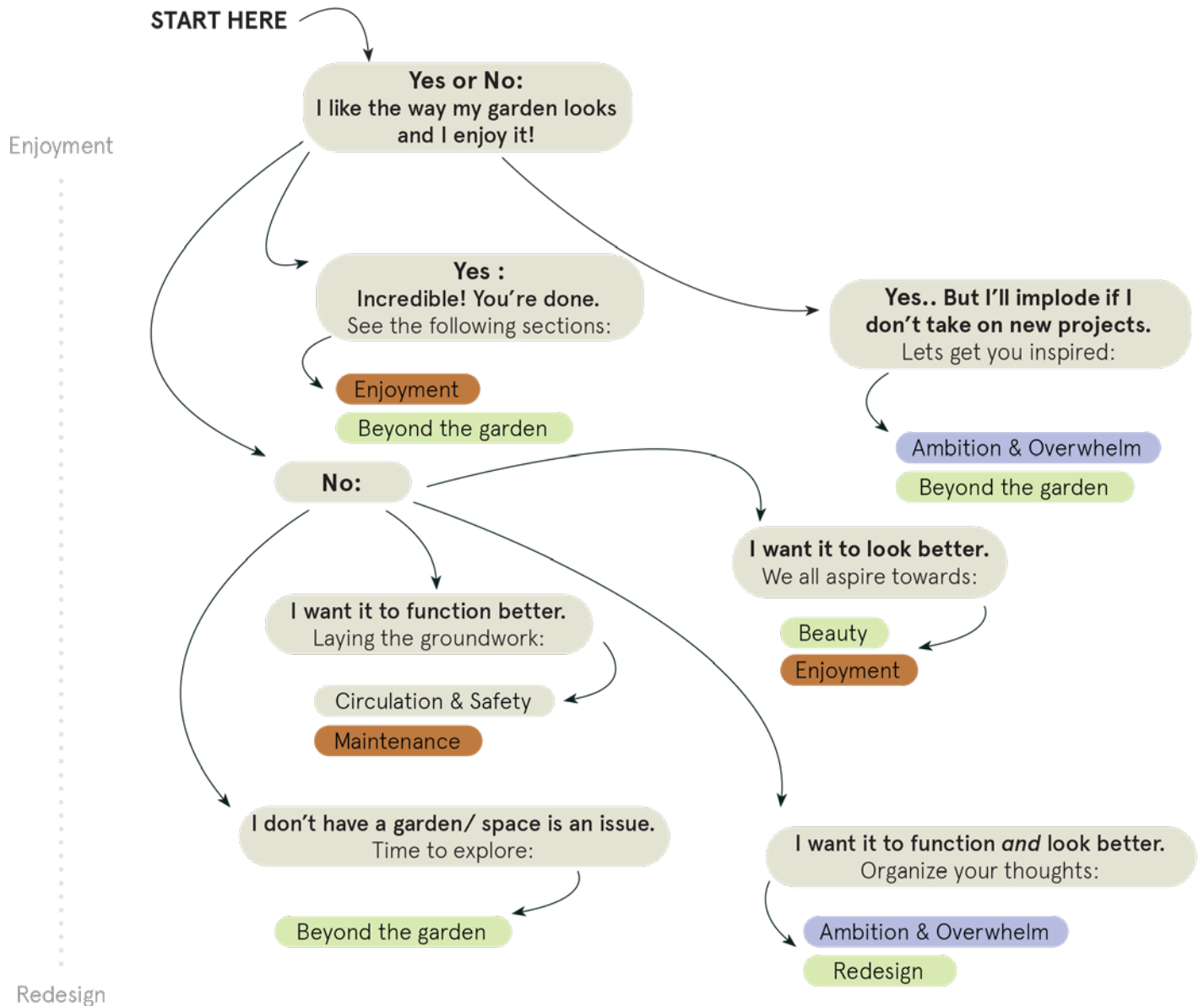


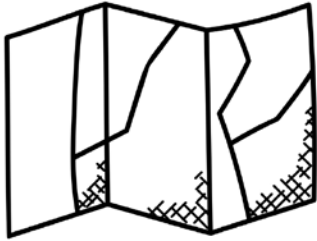
YOUR STRESS-FREE 2024 GARDEN PLAN

Learn what you want to do in your garden this year to stop being overwhelmed and prioritize enjoyment.

Text by Jonathan Hallet and all artwork sourced from The Noun Project

With a garden comes great responsibility and . . . great enjoyment. Gardens offer us so much: the chance to be present with seasonal changes, opportunities for respite and rejuvenation, and places to foster community. We use our gardens to tell a story about what is valuable to us such as beauty, ecology, design, and harmony. How can you hone in on what is meaningful to you as you look to the years ahead? In 2024 does your garden need a full refresh or a new lens of looking at what is already there? Follow the guide below which is meant to help you find a peaceful path towards a deepened relationship with your garden and nature.





Ambition & Overwhelm

Find focus: It is easy to feel busy, and that can be a good thing. You just want to be focused if being overwhelmed is a theme for you.

Phasing: Developing a phased plan of action can be helpful. But, if puttering is your love language, putter away! You're in this for the long haul.

Professional help: Big ambitions? Get help from a landscape designer to create a phased design plan, and a landscape contractor or gardener to make it happen! Or, of course, tackle this plan yourself. The right person can help develop a plan that makes sense for you.

Outdoor inspiration: Do you feel trapped or burdened? Go hiking! Learn the birds in your yard. Find ways to connect to the local ecology and bring that knowledge into your garden. See if you can refocus onto what interests you rather than keeping up with neighbor's expectations.

Maintenance

Weeds: Is your garden weedy? Cover the ground with wood chip mulch and plants. This can save you a tremendous amount of time and effort spent weeding over the long term.

Native plants: Does your garden take a ton of fussy management and water? Perhaps you love this part of your home garden, but if not, how about converting part of your yard to native plants for wildlife habitat? Appropriate native

plants can be low water, low maintenance, weed suppressing, and beautiful once established.

Ecology: The benefits of this type of planting theme extend beyond the garden, supporting local wildlife and ecology.



Redesign

Give an area a fuller redesign.

Thematic exploration: Is there a new theme for you to explore? A winter garden? Pollinator species you want to encourage? Focusing in on a theme may be a good guide.

Professional help: Maybe get some help rethinking an area. See Anxiety and Overwhelm for more on this.

Perfection vs. Presence: Keep in mind that it might be helpful to see your garden engagement for the long term temporal relationship it is. Rather than looking for garden perfection, how about garden enjoyment!



Circulation & Safety

New/refined pathways: How you move people through your

garden is a large part of the overall experience of a place. Is there a way the pathway can be more inviting?

Hierarchy: Use pathways to create elements of pleasant surprise and revelation along the way. Create hierarchy, such as primary access routes versus those paths leading to "destinations" in the garden.

Repair pathways: It is important for you and your guests to be able to get around safely. Are old pavers now creating tripping hazards?

Enhanced journey: Consider pathway materials- is there a paver or flagstone that enhances the journey through your site? Try a lighting refresh to enhance visibility and make a garden path more inviting in the winter months.

Have fun exploring and laying out new circulation routes that highlight features of your garden.



Beauty

Aesthetic goals: It is clear and distinct what I want to look better/there is a distinct "sore thumb" area.

Finding inspiration: Could you visit another garden you admire? Does it have similar light and moisture conditions? What is working? How does it feel? Take notes. You could have a designer or gardener help you work out spatially what it is you'd like to achieve.



Walking in nature: Go out on a walk in nature for inspiration. There are incredible public parks in Seattle, make note of species and spatial arrangements you are drawn to, especially those with similar sun and moisture conditions as yours.

Utilize resources: See Sue Nevler's public garden resources on PugetSoundGardens.org for gardens to visit.



Enjoyment

Enjoy your garden: Enjoyment is a huge achievement. Of course, gardens take ongoing care, so you'll have that.

Temporal Relationship: The temporal relationship we have with our gardens is one of the greatest gifts, watching changes over seasons and years.

Engagement: Perhaps there is a new means of engaging with and documenting and sharing the gifts of these changes, such as a monthly sketch of the same vignette, or seed saving or cuttings prepared as gifts for friends and neighbors or the local p-patch.

Optimized Enjoyment: Is there some greater enjoyment to optimize for? Could you refresh an existing seating area or make a new one? It can be as simple as inserting a bench or a couple of chairs. How about a heated concrete bench that allows you a nice place to read or work on winter days.

Beyond the Garden

Vegetables: Have you tried growing vegetables? It can be satisfying on many levels, a whole new way to

connect with plants, and seasonality. If space is an issue, you can get on a community garden wait list (locally through Seattle Tilth).

Container gardening: Garden in pots and expand your growing area! You can grow a shocking amount of plants in pots.

Community Connection: Consider volunteering as a native plant park steward at your local park. Become a park steward, contribute to local ecology, and learn about native plants. You get the satisfaction of contribution, without the burden

of upkeep. Many parks, such as the Washington Park Arboretum, offer tours, led by volunteers, for bird watching, plant identification and historical context. This is a great way to connect with others who are inspired by the enrichment gardens bring to a city.



Owning land is a strange thing, at once a privilege, a burden, an opportunity, and an ongoing injustice to Indigenous people.

In the wake of climate-crisis related catastrophes, the connection we share as humans to this planet, and the inequities revealed by these crises, becomes ever more apparent. Concepts of "land ownership" become more and more at odds with efforts towards a just climate future. Everyone and all creatures need access to natural refuge. Studies continue to demonstrate the connection between resilience and contact with nature. We all need the opportunity to play that engagement with what nature offers us, but it is also an opportunity to steward the land in a spirit of reciprocity. We can have and create ways of touching plants and touching the earth. This in any form can be a deeply satisfying practice, a practice of healing, for self, others and the land. As a millennial and a designer, I continue to try to find an approach that strikes a good balance of listening to where we are, where we are going, and that asks something of the earth, while listening to what it needs in return. How might our labors of love within our gardens connect to a larger effort toward healing ecologically and socially. How might our projects at home steward a greater good, leaving us more inspired and connected than when we started. This is the approach I would love for more of us to take, even in our humble home gardens. 🌱

Jonathan Hallet is a landscape architect in Seattle, WA. His firm, Supernature LLC, seeks to layer human needs and wants, nature, beauty, design, art, habitat and ecosystem function into site-specific landscapes.

All artwork sourced from The Noun Project.



The Miller Library has nearly 200 active subscriptions to magazines, journals, newsletters, and other periodical publications. I'd love to read them all, but time constraints force me to be selective. One that I never miss is *The Plant Review*, published quarterly by the Royal Horticultural Society of Britain.

"Bizarre, brilliant and beautiful plants that grow in gardens" is an accurate description of the magazine's focus, as proclaimed on its website. Typical articles promote little known but garden-worthy selections of species of trees, shrubs, and all types of herbaceous plants in meticulous detail — a plant nerd's delight!

For example, the June 2023 issue included an article titled "The Irises of Benton End," describing the hybridizing efforts of artist Cedric Morris (1889-1982) at his home in eastern England. Written by Sarah Cook, who maintains the largest collection of Morris' hybrids, the article includes photographs of all the 28 known survivors, along with the derivations of their names, including of friends, favorite places, and resident cats.

Another article, spread over four pages with several photographs, sorts out the difference between two maple cultivars, *Acer* 'Silver Cardinal' and *A.* 'Red Flamingo.' What are those differences? I don't have the space to summarize, but this is typical of the horticultural conundrums addressed by *The Plant Review*.

In the March 2022 issue, Dan Hinkley shares the highlight of his three decades of exploration of the genus *Begonia*, especially searching for those hardy in temperate gardens. In the same issue, Graham Rice critiques various wildflower websites, while Helen Harrison searches for large examples of monkey puzzle trees (*Araucaria araucana*) in Wales.

While there is some overlap with *The Garden*, also published by the RHS, *The Plant Review* tackles the more obscure and esoteric subjects. It rarely features gardens, or the cultural and design practices found in its older, sibling publication.

Begun as *The Plantsman* in 1979, the Miller Library has a full run of this engaging magazine. When your favorite plant is profiled, it is invaluable, but I also recommend it for regular reading. It will expand your plant knowledge and confirm just how amazing (and fun!) plants can be. 🌿

Brian Thompson is the manager and curator of horticultural literature for the Elisabeth C. Miller Library.

LITERARY NOTES

from the Miller Library

Brian Thompson



Rosa 'KORwest'
WESTERLAND®
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FLORA ROMANTICA: Seasons of the Romantic Garden

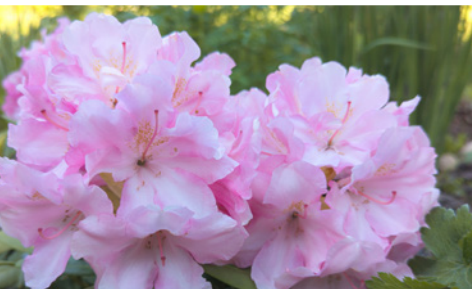
Text & Images by Richie Steffen (unless otherwise noted)

Who doesn't appreciate the refuge our gardens provide us. I know that I always feel a little more relaxed and at ease when I am in the garden, even when I see those weeds I have been meaning to pull over the last two weeks. The informality of my home garden, punctuated with billowing perennials, spreading groundcovers, flowering shrubs and layered tiers of trees, creates a feeling of comfort and tranquility. These plantings all reflect qualities found in the classic romantic garden. Although I would never think of my garden as a romantic garden, I cannot deny that the embrace of naturalistic form and informal structure are hallmarks of this style and are strikingly common in our modern landscapes. The popularity of this informal style is the inspiration of this year's Great Plant Picks garden theme celebrating Flora Romantica: Seasons of the Romantic Garden. The GPP website and poster will be showcasing the plants that add a touch of romance to the garden.

The blooms and colors in spring and summer open a wide selection of plants to create the feeling of abundance and joy. Many classics of the romantic garden are in flower at this time of the year such as roses, rhododendrons and hydrangeas. Many of our flowering trees are at the height of beauty and, of course, the perennials are a cascade of floriferous flowers. Great Plant Picks has a wonderful selection of old-fashioned roses along with a growing list of modern roses that offer plenty of color, wonderful fragrance and excellent disease resistance. The list is so seductive that

even I, a staunch rose critic, have added several of these beauties to my garden. A few favorites are *Rosa 'KORwest'* WESTERLAND® and its sport *Rosa 'Autumn Sunset'*. Both of these shrub roses can become large shrubs or trained as a climber over an arbor or along a fence. WESTERLAND® has coppery orange flowers with a hint of apricot and 'Autumn Sunset' is a golden yellow and apricot blend. Both have a wonderful fruity citrus fragrance. If a simpler bloom is desired, there is the single-flowered *Rosa 'Sally Holmes'* with lightly fragrant and full clusters of buff white and yellow centers or *Rosa 'Golden Wings'*, large fragrant, pale-yellow flowers with orange stamens. All four roses are rebloomers, although the rebloom on 'Golden Wings' is often light.

Great strides have been made over the years to produce an ample number of compact cultivars of both rhododendrons and hydrangeas making them very useful in smaller gardens. *Rhododendron yakushimanum* hybrids are an excellent group for compact growth and sun tolerance. Affectionally referred to as "yaks," these hybrids are known for their ability to flower at a young age with prolific tight, rounded flower trusses and their tight compact growth. Many of the hybrids also have indumentum, a fuzzy, colorful soft hairy scale on the undersides of the leaves and covering the tops of new growth. *Rhododendron 'Ken Janeck'* and *R. 'Mardi Gras'* are two favorites. 'Ken Janeck' is a robust grower with abundant flowers that are pink in bud opening to a large, ruffled white flower. 'Mardi Gras' is lightly indumented with striking glossy dark green leaves that perfectly compliment the

*Rosa* 'Golden Wings'*Hydrangea* 'Preziosa'*Rhododendron* 'Yaku Prince'*Geranium* 'Gerwat' ROZANNE™*Anemone* 'Macane004'
DREAMING SWAN™

rose pink buds which open to a soft pink and eventually fade to white. If you cannot find either of them at the nursery, try *R.* 'Yaku Princess' or *R.* 'Crete', both are compact with great indumentum and plenty of flowers that start out pink in bud opening to white. If you want a touch more pink, try the similarly growing *R.* 'Yaku Prince'.

As the rhododendron blooms come to an end and the first big flush of flowers peak on the roses, the hydrangeas start to play a larger role in the garden. The voluptuous blooms of the mophead *Hydrangea macrophylla*, the bigleaf hydrangea, are hard to miss in the summer garden. My preference is to use compact cultivars that can be grown in containers for their first two to four years. Some proven cultivars that have withstood the test of time are 'Glowing Embers', 'Merritt's Beauty', 'Merritt's Supreme' and the hybrid, *Hydrangea* 'Preziosa'. Bigleaf hydrangea will readily change flower color depending on the soil pH. Low pH, or acidic soils, produce blue and purple flowers while high pH, or sweet or neutral soils, produce pink blooms. *Hydrangea* 'Preziosa' is not dramatically affected by soil pH and will always have very variable flowers starting out white and pink and maturing to blues, purples and reds. These cultivars also have blooms that fade in an attractive manner providing color from early summer into fall.

The summer romantic garden belongs to the perennials. The masses of flowers and colors offer an abundance of beauty. I always look forward to the hardy geraniums to welcome the

summer with a sea of purple and pink. The best of the hardy geraniums is *Geranium* 'Gerwat' ROZANNE™ with large, rounded blooms with a vibrant reddish purple coloring that pales in the center. These flowers are produced all summer long and if your plant becomes a little rangy by midsummer, just cut it back and it will resprout and start flowering again into the early autumn. Another favorite is *Geranium* 'Ann Folkard'. This scrambling perennial will weave its way through your plantings producing stunning fuchsia pink flowers throughout the summer. It is very similar to the robust cultivar *Geranium* 'Anne Thomson'. The easiest way to tell the two apart is to look at the new growth, *Geranium* 'Ann Folkard' has a distinctive golden hue to the new foliage while 'Anne Thomson' is bright green.

I just started growing the lovely Swan series of *Anemone*. These non-spreading perennials have gorgeous large white flowers with a striking purple blushed back. *Anemone* 'Macane004' DREAMING SWAN™ is the first of the group I planted in my home garden and this year it produced a beautiful show from mid-summer to early fall. The flowers resisted flopping even though they are produced on stems 24 to 30 inches tall. I look forward to trying more of this group in my garden.

The romantic garden does not need to be all about flowers. Selecting plants with delicate foliage and graceful habit is just as important and builds the garden's structure. Japanese maples are a perfect match for these criteria,



Acer palmatum 'Seiryû'



Helleborus × *hybridus*



Erica carnea 'Myretoun Ruby'

and it is easy to find more than one that will add a touch of beauty to the landscape. I love the fine cut-leaf foliage of *Acer palmatum* 'Seiryû', one of the only upright cut-leaf maples. This small tree has a broad arching crown, and in autumn, the leaves change to a soft red mixed with oranges and apricot tones. A 10 year-old specimen can be expected to reach about 10 to 12 feet tall with a spread of about 12 to 15 feet. Mature specimens rarely grow over 15 feet tall. The Pacific Northwest has a wealth of Japanese maples that can be found in most nurseries; it is well worth exploring the possibilities for your garden.

Recently, I have developed a fondness for camellias. The fall-blooming species *Camellia sasanqua* is especially charming for informal gardens. The leaves tend to be smaller than their spring counterparts and the growth habit more lax and graceful. The cultivar 'Setsugekka' is a favorite and a long-proven performer. The large single ruffly white flowers have a bright yellow tuft of stamens in the center with the first flowers opening in mid-autumn and continuing until early winter. I love the unusual earthy fragrance. It reminds me of a rich forest compost with a slight light hint of floral scent. These fall-flowering camellias bloom much better in full sun, but will tolerate light shade.

Winter is rarely a season that comes to mind when creating a romantic garden, but our mild climate very much facilitates adding some delicate and graceful choices for the season.

The winter-flowering heaths offer us months of soft billowing, low mounds of color. *Erica* × *darleyensis* 'Kramer's Rote' and *Erica carnea* 'Myretoun Ruby' are noted for their dusty rose to magenta flowers that cover the plant. *Erica* × *darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze' and 'White Perfection' look like mounds of snow when in full flower.

In late winter, the elegance of *Corylopsis*, winter hazel, cannot be matched. The most widely grown species is *Corylopsis pauciflora*, buttercup winter hazel. The thin, delicate twigs are loaded with short, butter yellow dangling chains of flowers. It is a compact grower reaching about 3 to 4 feet in

10 years with a spread of 5 to 6 feet, but give it room as it matures because it can reach over 6 feet tall with a spread to 10 feet. There are a few larger and more upright species that can be trained as an arborized multi-stemmed large shrub or small tree. One of the best is *Corylopsis glabrescens*, fragrant winter hazel. A stunning species, it was once impossible to find available, now you can find the selection 'Longwood Chimes' at specialty nurseries. This amazing cultivar has larger flowers than the typical form by being prolifically carried along the stems and emitting a wonderful fragrance.

No romantic garden should be without at least a few of our winter-flowering perennials and bulbs. *Hellebores* top the list. There are many cultivars with new selections being offered every year. Even with these new cultivars my favorite is *Helleborus* × *hybridus*, the Lenten rose. Lenten roses have the widest color selection of the genus along with complex flower forms ranging from single blooms to fluffy double blooms. I prefer the relaxed drooping head of the flower and find its form more graceful and charming. I think one of the most beautiful winter combinations is flowering hellebores surrounded by the colorful foliage and magenta, pink and white flowers of *Cyclamen coum*. I am also particularly fond of adding the bright, cheery yellow flowering winter aconite, *Eranthus hyemalis*, into the planting. This small spring ephemeral can be purchased as a bulb in the fall or as already growing plants in the very early spring.

The informality of the romantic garden and the wide range of plants we have to develop this style of gardening make it an easy choice for both large and small gardens. To learn more about plants for this type of gardening visit the Great Plant Picks website, www.greatplantpicks.org. Great Plant Picks is a non-profit educational program sponsored by the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden. You can also pick up the colorful Flora Romantica poster at their container display on the garden floor of the Northwest Flower and Garden Festival. 🌸

Richie Steffen is Executive Director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and past board member of NHS.

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NHS would like to especially thank its members who have donated at the Contributing or Supporting levels:

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Elisabeth Carey Miller SCHOLARSHIPS IN HORTICULTURE

Richie Steffen

As Executive Director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden, there is a connection that I have to the legacy of the Miller family. Mrs. Miller's love of horticulture and insatiable curiosity of plants has spread this legacy through the gardening community, and I feel lucky to share in many of these connections. Certainly, the bond shared between the Miller Garden and Northwest Horticultural Society, the gardening organization Mrs. Miller founded, has been one of the most profound for me.

When past NHS president Jason Jorgensen proposed the idea of creating scholarships for the regional community college horticulture programs, I was immediately excited by the possibilities. I could hardly imagine what would develop from my conversations with a few board members of the Pendleton and Elisabeth C. Miller Charitable Foundation. From those conversations, the idea developed for funding substantial and profoundly impactful scholarships, leading the Miller Charitable Foundation to make a long-term commitment to granting NHS \$25,000 yearly to provide students with a \$6,000 scholarship each. NHS committed an additional \$5,000 to the Miller Charitable Foundation's grant allowing the organization to provide five scholarships. The first of these scholarships were awarded in the late spring of 2023.

In writing this article, I could think of no one better to express how impactful these scholarships are than the recipients themselves. Brigitta Ujhelyi, a student enrolled in the horticulture program at Edmonds College, writes, "I feel incredibly grateful to be selected as one of the Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarships in Horticulture recipients. I literally burst into tears when I got the notification! Being in the midst of a career change and new to the Pacific Northwest is challenging. Knowing that there is a generous, caring and supportive community of people who appreciate plants truly means a lot to me. The funds provided by the Scholarship Committee's involvement made it possible for me to stay focused on my studies and have more peace of mind. I was able to make it to the Honors List four quarters in a row, which helps me feel more confident about finding alignment in my chosen new career path. Thank you very much!"

Another Edmonds College student, Joanna Oliver, echoes these sentiments as well. Joanna writes, "Receiving the Elisabeth C. Miller Scholarships in Horticulture was incredible. I felt so honored to be one of the few selected, reassuring me that I'm on the correct career path. The funds allowed me to completely focus on my studies. It's hard to put into words how much stress it relieved, but it came at the exact right time to push me to the finish line. I'm heading into the landscape design world feeling confident in my work and abilities thanks to this scholarship."

Financial need is a consistent worry with nearly every college student. I know that the Scholarship Committee is incredibly proud that this scholarship is one of the most significant that students of the three horticulture programs can receive. Devon Burns eloquently conveys this in her statement, "Receiving the Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarships in Horticulture award has enabled me to finish out the remainder of my schooling debt free. I can now take more classes than I had originally planned, allowing me to pursue a few landscape design classes along with the remainder of the required classes for the Sustainable Landscape Management Associates degree. As a result, I will have a more well-rounded education when I graduate from Edmonds College. It has set me up for a successful career in horticulture by freeing me from the financial burden that comes with schooling. It has allowed me to solely concentrate on my studies and perfect the skills needed for a fine gardener."

The \$6,000 awarded for each scholarship is sufficient to pay for one year's worth of full-time tuition as well as provide a minimum of a \$1,000 stipend to the student for other school expenses.

Caitlin Capistrone, a scholarship recipient from Edmonds College, mentions how these scholarships not only are financially valuable but also validating in choosing a career path in horticulture, "I am incredibly grateful to have received the Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarships award. Being recognized by such an esteemed organization confirmed for me that my past experiences were worthwhile and my career



2023 NHS GRANTS

Corrine Hollister

goals are achievable. Additionally, the financial security this scholarship provides allows me to focus on my studies. I am excited to continue my educational journey and to start my own landscape design and maintenance company."

Benjamin Billick confirms this, "I am a latecomer to the field of horticulture, having already spent 10 years in a different career. Plants had been a passion of mine for years, but I felt like I might be a little crazy deciding to leave behind a decade of work in order to pursue a degree in horticulture. Consequently, receiving the Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarships in Horticulture was very validating for me. It felt like an acknowledgement that the work I dreamed of doing matters and is valued by others. It also meant a great deal to me financially. Changing careers is not a cheap endeavor, and the scholarship award meant I didn't have to worry about tuition during my final quarters at Lake Washington Institute of Technology. I am honored to receive this award, and to be joining such a kind and giving community of horticulturists."

NHS is very grateful to be working with the Pendelton and Elisabeth C. Miller Charitable Foundation to offer these scholarships. Three members of the Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarships in Horticulture Committee selecting these awards are appointed by the Miller Charitable Foundation. NHS expresses its thanks for these appointees. Although they are not voting members of the committee their insight and thoughtful consideration is much appreciated. Any NHS member knowing someone who is enrolled in the horticulture programs of Edmonds College, Lake Washington Technical Institute or South Seattle College should encourage students to apply for the scholarship. The application is available on the NHS website with applications being accepted through March 31st, 2024. Congratulations to these five students on being the first scholarship recipients. NHS and the Miller Charitable Foundation will be wishing them well in their future careers in horticulture. 🌱

Richie Steffen is Executive Director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and past board member of NHS.

NHS awarded a total of \$10,000 to two non-profit organizations for the 2023-2024 grant cycle. Rooted in both education and community involvement, these groups and their projects will reach a wide range of gardening enthusiasts. We are excited to support their work.

GRuB (Garden Raised Bounty), located in Olympia, Washington, received a \$6,000 grant to continue its efforts to build home gardens for low-income families and to provide community service opportunities for military veterans. The GRuB Garden Project, a long-time recipient of NHS grants, offers workshops in sustainable gardening, garden planning, weeding, harvesting and cooking. The organization partners with local farms, seed companies and the Food Co-op to provide garden mentorship and successful harvests. Through the Veterans Program, participants receive training in small-scale urban agriculture, beekeeping certification and food production. And they deepen their connections with the community by helping to construct the raised beds and mentor new gardeners. GRuB's goal for 2024 is to provide raised beds to 35 new low-income families who can grow their own produce.

The Concrete Farm to Outdoor Classrooms project received a \$4,000 grant to help build roofs at two schools in Concrete, Washington. These covered areas will extend the season for hands-on learning to local students from kindergarten through high school, as well as members of the local Boys and Girls Club and the Glacier Peak Institute, a non-profit providing eco-systems training to rural youth. Plans to meet the total project budget of \$10,000 include in-kind community donations for both materials and labor. The two facilities are expected to be completed this winter. The Farm to School project, founded in 2013, provides training and experiential lessons in gardening, cooking and nutrition in the Concrete School District. It is a project of United General District 304 – a community health center located in Sedro-Woolley, Washington – which promotes the well-being of Skagit County residents. 🌱

Corrine Hollister is a landscape designer and owner of Earth Dance Design and is a NHS board member.



Elisabeth Carey Miller GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS IN HORTICULTURE

Ray Larson

The Northwest Horticultural Society has been pleased to fund Elisabeth Carey Miller Graduate Research Scholarships in Horticulture to students associated with the University of Washington for over 30 years. This year, thanks both to interest accrued from the NHS Education Fund — originally set up for this purpose in the 1980s — and additional NHS funds allocated from the past year, we had \$10,000 to award to students enrolled in graduate programs associated with the UW Botanic Gardens and disciplines relating to topics in horticulture.

In 2023, the NHS Scholarship Committee consisted of NHS members Anita Dunn, Ann LeVasseur, board members Daniel Sparler and Richie Steffen, and myself, board member and committee chair (and past Miller Scholarship recipient). We received three applications from students associated with the UW Botanic Gardens in the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences. We were pleased that all applications were very strong and focused on important avenues of horticultural research with broad applications for plant selection, cultivation and species conservation.

The committee awarded \$4,000 to Danielle Horne, whose research focuses on the endangered Wenatchee Mountains checkermallow, *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*, to study growing requirements, establishment strategies and site effects to expand knowledge of propagation and growing practices for rare plants. Microsite effects involving moisture, soil texture, light availability and other factors are an often-overlooked aspect in successfully growing and reintroducing hard-to-establish species. Understanding more about how to best grow and cultivate species that require highly specific site and nursery conditions has wide application for horticultural purposes.

The committee also awarded Amelia Keyser-Gibson \$3,000 for her research that studies how water availability and climatic differences impact plant photosynthetic ability and productivity. She is taking precise measurements across the “Climate Ready Landscape Plants” research plots at the six institutions across the Western United States to expand physiological analyses, focusing on limitations in stomatal and mesophyll conductance on overall all plant photosynthetic capacity and water use efficiency. These results will be included in models to better represent how plant physiology contributes to water balance in the overall climate system. This will help inform better sustainable horticultural practices for professionals, plant scientists and gardeners.

Finally, the committee awarded \$3,000 to PhD student Miro Stuke, whose research focuses on mechanisms and prediction of cold hardiness for trees in our region, focusing on conifers. The research looks at genotype specific hardiness within and among species, combining them with climate model predictions to identify seed sources and ecotypes that will be most viable in future climate conditions. The work is easily transferable to many other woody plant species, including those of horticultural merit.

These scholarship awards continue a long tradition of NHS support for student research in horticulturally related topics with real-world applications. Students typically provide updates on their research during the annual membership meeting each November or at other times of the year. We can all be proud of supporting the advancement of horticultural knowledge at all levels of study. 🌱

Ray Larson is Associate Director and Curator of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens and a past NHS board member.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear NHS Members,

I feel deeply honored to assume the role of NHS President, as I have long admired this organization. The NHS is special in many regards: its rich history, unwavering commitment to high-quality education, and philanthropic endeavors serving the Pacific Northwest gardening community. Being a part of this organization has always been a joy due to its diverse membership—an inclusive blend of aspiring to seasoned gardeners, alongside professionals and luminaries. Our shared passion for gardening and nature unites us through collective experiences of learning and appreciation.

2024 marks a transitional year for the NHS . . .

We thank the outgoing NHS board members for their hard work over the past years. **Karin Kravitz**, administrator and pillar of the NHS for over two decades, will soon retire. Words can hardly capture our deep gratitude for her immense contributions to this organization. I especially want to thank Karin for spending countless hours mentoring our new administrator Dennis Beatty, myself, and the rest of the board. Her dedication to training and knowledge transfer assures a seamless continuation of NHS operations.

We are thrilled to welcome incoming board members Gillian Matthews, Jason Jorgensen, Michelle Rau, Pam Sturgeon, Penny Kriese, Sue Goetz, and Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson. I'm grateful for this extraordinary team with extensive experience which will help shape our journey in 2024 and beyond. The coming year also marks our full recovery from the pandemic's shadow. We have emerged stronger with the **largest ever membership base** and the most diverse range of programming. I am grateful to the past presidents who guided us through these challenging times. I want to particularly thank Jason Jorgensen, Richie Steffen, and Eileen VanSchaik, the founding members of our **highly successful online program**.

Winter, a time of reflection and anticipation for us gardeners, sets the stage for envisioning the year ahead. At NHS, we have embraced this by launching our planning efforts that will carry us through winter and guide our journey into spring. We hope to put in place both short-term goals and long-term directions for the NHS to explore in the coming years. Our focus for 2024 is to offer an exciting array of both online and in-person events. We are dedicated to rekindling cherished programs from our past, particularly those that value **in-person experiences**.

This newsletter provides a preview of some of our programs for the year ahead. We have an incredible **lineup of webinars** that cover a diverse range of topics and interests. I will focus on the first few. We kick off the season with the popular Bess and Richie Dishing the Dirt series. I am personally excited to hear Scott Zona speak about his award-winning book, *A Gardener's Guide to Botany*. This book, destined to become a classic, is one I am currently reading. It takes you deeper into the world of plants and makes you understand them better. Keep an eye out for more exciting updates as the year progresses.

As we expand our efforts across diverse programs, we need your invaluable time as a **volunteer** to bring our exciting ideas to life. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the various committees on the board. My own deeper connection to the NHS was forged this way. Moving forward, we are also dedicated to integrating your feedback and input into our initiatives through surveys, panel discussions, etc., allowing us to **collectively shape** the future direction of NHS.

Both the board and I eagerly anticipate connecting with all of you in the upcoming year.

Sashi Raghupathy
NHS President



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"Gardening is hope made real. Planting a seed comes with a promise from the universe that something tangible, something real, will follow from that simple act."

*– Maggie Stuckey, *The Container Victory Garden*, 2023*

Hamamelis × intermedia 'Angelly'
Image by Richie Steffen